

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07212 131200Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AEC-07 AECE-00

ACDA-10 AID-05 /095 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4911

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7212

E O 11652/ NA/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: RABIN: WAR IS NO SOLUTION FOR ISRAELIS OR ARABS

1. DEPT WILL BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY
PRIMIN RABIN IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INTERVIEW BROADCAST ON
BRITISH TV DEC 12 RE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. EMB SUMMARY
BASED ON DEC 13 JERUSALEM POST AND MAARIV REPORTS.

2. RABIN SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT ISRAEL COULD WIN A WAR
IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PUT AN END TO ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. HE
BELIEVED THAT ARABS ALSO WERE AWARE THAT THEY COULD NOT SOLVE
PROBLEM BY WAR. " BY WAR ISRAEL CAN FIRST REDUCE THE MILITARY
THREAT TO THE COUNTRY. ISRAEL CAN GAIN TIME, BUT ISRAEL CANNOT
BASSICALLY SOLVE THE POLITICAL CONFLICT BY WINNING THE WAR BECAUSE
WE'LL NEVER BE ALLOWED TO WIN IT. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE
ARAB COUNTRIES THINK THAT THEY CAN WIN A WAR IN AN OVERWHELMING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 07212 131200Z

WAY THAT CAN ALLOW THEM TO DICTATE TO IRAEL THE POLITICAL FUTURE."

3. RABIN SAID THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT BE FIRST STATE TO INTRODUCE ATOMIC WEAPONS INTO AREA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO HOW RAPIDLY ISRAEL COULD BECOME SECOND STATE TO DO SO, RABIN SAID, "IT IS DIFFICULT TO ANSWER THAT. I HOPE THAT THE OTHER SIDE WILL NOT BE TEMPTED TO INTRODUCE ATOMIC WEAPONS. I DO NOT THINK THAT WE CAN PERMIT OURSELVES TO BE THE SECOND STATE. WE MUST NOT BE THE FIRST BUT AT THE SAME TIME NOT THE SECOND, AND THIS DEPENDS ON THE QUESTION OF WHEN ONE OF THE SIDES WILL DECIDE TO TAKE THIS STEP."

4. ON RELATIONSHIP OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE TO ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, RABIN SAID, "THE KEY TO WAR AND PEACE IN THE AREA LIES IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES... ON THE OTHER HAND, WITHOUT A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINE ISSUE THERE CAN BE NO JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE AREA."

5. IN RESPONSE TO INTERVIEWER'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ISRAEL SHOULD INDICATE READINESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH PLO IF LATTER GIVE UP IDEA THAT STATE OF ISRAEL IN ITS PRESENT FORM MUST GO, RABIN REP-

LIED, "I THINK POLITICALLY IT WOULD BE ONE OF THE GREATEST MISTAKES THAT ISRAEL COULD MAKE, BECAUSE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN, THAT WE'LL GIVE LEGITIMACY, PRACTICALLY RECOGNITION, TO THE SO-CALLED PLO. I THINK IT WOULD BE ONE OF THE GRAVEST MISTAKES ON THE PART OF ISRAEL TO DO SO."

6. RABIN EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT IT WOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE FOR ISRAEL TO REACH SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN REGARDING WEST BANK. HE EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD TAKE YEAR OR TWO UNTIL ARABS REALIZED THAT RABAT HAD BROUGHT ABOUT OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY WANTED--I.E., THAT WEST BANK AND GAZA WERE BECOMING MORE ISRAELI. ONCE THIS WAS CLEAR, KING HUSSEIN COULD RE-ESTABLISH HIMSELF AND PLAY A ROLE. " IF KING HUSSEIN OR JORDAN IN ITS PRESENT POSITION CANNOT SURVIVE-- THAT IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER SETBACK FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE AREA."

7. ON SOVIET ROLE IN ARAB WORLD, RABIN SAID THAT SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO BUILD UP SYRIA AS COUNTERBALANCE TO EGYPT AS LEADING FORCE IN ARAB WORLD IN CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL. "THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 07212 131200Z

IMPORTANCE OF EGYPT WAS MUCH MORE OBVIOUS IN THE PAST THAN IN THE PRESENT. STILL I BELIEVE EGYPT IS THE KEY ARAB COUNTRY IF THE MID EAST WILL TURN EITHER TO WAR OR TO TPEAC. I THINK THE MORE TIME PASSES EGYPT LOSES ITS ROLE AS THE KEY FACTOR IN THE ARAB WAR. I'VE SEEN IN THE LAST YEAR AN EFFORT BY THE SOVIET UNION TO BUILD SYRIA FIRST MILITARILY, I THINK ALSO POLITICALLY, AS A COUNTERPART TO EGYPT IN THE ARAB WORLD. SINCE THE YOM KIPPUR WAR THE INFLUX OF ARMS AND POLITICAL

SUPPORT WAS BUILT AROUND SYRIA AND IRAQ BY THE SOVIET
UNION TO SERVE AS A BLANCING FACTOR IN THE ARAB
WORLD VIS-A-VIS EGYPT."
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